

FBI- #72

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ALBANIA

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File

COURT PASSES SENTENCE ON EIGHT 'SPIES'

(Editor's Note--M)

Tirana, Albanian Home Service, at 1900 GMT on Apr. 13, 1954, reports the following sentences in the trial of eight Albanians charged with espionage and diversionary activities under the tutelage of the United States: Hamit Matjani, death by hanging; Zenel Shehu, Halil Branica, Hamit Kabashi, Naum Sula, Gani Malushi, and Rapush Agolli, death by firing squad; Ibrahim Lamce, 10 years' imprisonment. The broadcast says that the decision of the court is "final" but will not be executed before the accused have received the answer to their request for mercy from the People's Presidium.

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The General Council also approved an appeal addressed to the Albanian people on the occasion of the forthcoming elections to the People's Assembly.

The meeting was opened by Comrade Enver Hoxha, President of the Democratic Front of Albania.

The meeting had the following agenda:

1--A report on the conclusion of the elections to the People's Council and on the tasks of the Democratic Front for the forthcoming elections to the People's Assembly.

2--Approval of the appeal of the Democratic Front.

Then the floor was given to Comrade Medar Shtylla, Chairman of the General Council of the Albanian Democratic Front, who presented a report on

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"This campaign is carried out at a time when our people are enthusiastically and patriotically preparing for the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the liberation of Albania.

"The campaign for the elections to the People's Assembly will contribute to the further strengthening of relations between the people of the Soviet Union and of the countries of the People's Democracies with the Albanian People. It also will help to strengthen the relations of the Albanian people with the peace-loving people of the world.

"The candidates to the People's Assembly will be the best sons and daughters of our people. They will carry out faithfully the policy of the Party and Government as they have always done since the liberation of the country.

"This campaign will also express the feelings of the people around their Democratic Front headed by the Party--their union around their Party, and their determination to remain an active member of the great camp of peace, led by the great Soviet Union.

"The Albanian people, headed by the Workers Party under the leadership of Comrade Enver, on May 30, by voting for the candidates of the Democratic Front, will vote for their happy future and for greater victories."

After the report of Comrade Shtylla, members of the General Council of the Albanian Democratic Front Don Prenk Mici, Ismail Arrifi, (Tac Saliu), Arrif Meta, Nuri Recja, Ethem Barhami, Dimitra Pojani, Djak Kola Tef Leshi, and Cato Laci addressed the meeting on the great importance of the elections to the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania, and on the tasks of the Democratic Front of Albania during the election campaign.

Finally, the appeal of the Democratic Front to the Albanian people was read and unanimously passed.

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TIRANA SPY TRIAL PROCEEDINGS CONTINUED

Tirana, Albanian Home Service, Apr. 9, 1954, 2000 GMT--M

(Fifth session of spy trial: interrogation of Hamit Matjani)

(Text)

President--The fifth session is opened. Accused Hamit Matjani, what have you got to say about the charges against you?

Accused--I accept all the charges against me.

Q--Who has sent you and what have you done?

A--As a member of the Balli Kombetar I have committed crimes against the State. I have committed crimes, (pause--Ed.) I have spied.

Q--Accused, tell me when you left Albania?

A--At the end of 1947.

Q--Why did you leave and where did you go?

A--I left because I could not stand it any longer. As I could not find any support, I left for Greece.

Q--With whom did you leave?

A-- I was (accused hesitates--Ed.) with Sefer Gjyka, Naum Sula, my brother, Faik Sula, Ramadan Selmani, (Besnik Hotja), and Haxhi

Q--Who were they?

A--They were criminals.

Q--What had they done before?

A--They were members and tools of the Balli Kombetar.

Q--They left for Greece along with you?

A--Yes.

Q--Where did you present yourself?

A--We presented ourselves at Konitsa.

Q--Where?

A--At Konitsa.

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Q--To whom did you present yourself?

A--To the Greek authorities.

Q--Tell me who took charge of you and where they sent you.

A--It was the Greek Army that took charge of us. After they interrogated us at Konitsa, they kept us here for 4 days, and after these 4 days they sent us to Ioannina.

Q--Who took you in charge?

A--Greek soldiers.

Q--Who among the soldiers?

A--Greek soldiers and officers.

Q--Accused, did they interrogate you?

A--Yes, they interrogated us.

Q--Who interrogated you?

A--The Greek soldiers.

Q--What did they ask you?

A--They asked us how long we had stayed in Albania and .. they asked us about the situation in Albania and for military, economic, and political information.

Q--What else?

A--... about our fighting in Albania. I told them about the fighting with the Government forces.

Q--What else? What else did you tell them?

A--They asked us about the forces that were after us, about the leader of these forces. Of course we did not know the names of the officers of these forces.

Q--Where were you (taken?) for the first time?

A--To Konitsa.

Q--To Konitsa?

A--Yes.

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Q--Where did they send you from there?

A--To Ioannina.

Q--To Ioannina?

A--Yes.

Q--Did they interrogate you at Ioannina?

A--No, they did not interrogate us in Ioannina.

Q--Did you stay in Ioannina or did they send you somewhere else?

A--We stayed 4 days in Ioannina and then they took us to Athens, to the Piraeus camp.

Q--To the Piraeus camp?

A--Yes.

Q--What was the name of this camp?

A--This camp was called the Hadjikyriakio camp.

Q--Why did they keep this camp?

A--It was a camp for immigrants--for example, Albanians, Bulgarians, and Armenians.

Prosecutor--Allow me, Comrade President. Accused Hamid Matjani, how did you present yourself to the Greek authorities? What did you tell them about your past, about who you were?

A--Certainly we (accused hesitates--Ed.) were refugees, criminals, and criminals against the Albanian people.

Q--Did you tell them what you had done during the war, together with the occupiers?

A--Yes, we told them.

Q--How did they answer?

A--They were interested in what we told them.

Q--What had they done during the occupation?

A--They collaborated with the occupation authorities.

Q--With the occupiers?

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A--Yes.

(Pause; Prosecutor speaks--Ed.) The Government of Athens accepts in its territory war criminals from the countries whose people have taken the regime into their own hands. The accused Hamit Matjani is confessing that criminals from all parts of the world are sheltered in Greek camps. This means that criminals from the People's Democracies are sheltered in these camps.

Referring to them, Hamit Matjani said that they were people's criminals, people who had collaborated with the occupiers. This shows they use the 100-million-dollar bill passed by the U.S. Government in 1951 ... (Prosecutor shouting, several words unintelligible--Ed.) against the independence of our people. The American imperialist forces ... (could make use of) only criminals of the type of Hamit Matjani, Zensel Shehu, Halil Branica, and others praise be to our people! (Loud applause--Ed.)

President--Accused Hamit Matjani, who administrated these camps?

A--The Greek police.

Q--Did foreigners visit these camps?

A--When I was there (they used to come).

Q--Who used to come? Can you tell us?

A--There was an Egyptian prince

Q--Accused, can you tell us about the other camps in Greece?

A--I beg your pardon?

Q--Were there other camps besides yours?

A--Besides this camp, there was the Lavrion camp where we were sent.

Q--Who was sent there?

A--The refugees.

Q--Did you go there?

A--Yes, I went there.

Q--You went?

A--Yes.

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Q--Who was with out in these camps? Has any one of the present accused been in these camps?

A--Yes, Naum Sula.

Q--Who else?

A--Ahmet Kabashi.

Q--Why did they keep them in the camps? Can you tell us about it?

A--They used to keep them in order to organize them (and later send them to Albania).

Q--Who used to keep them?

A--The Greek authorities, under American instructions.

Q--Did anyone propagandize in the camp and who was making propaganda?

A--Every part was propagandizing in its favor.

Q--Who was propagandizing? Can you tell us?

A--Abbaz Ermeni for the Balli Kombetar, also Fiqri Dini, and later Refat Spahiu for the Legaliteti Party.

Q--Can you tell us what Fiqri Dini was doing?

A--I know that he was an officer during Zog's regime and later a minister of the Fascist occupation.

Q--With whom did he collaborate?

A--With the Fascists and Nazis.

Q--With whom is he collaborating now?

A--With the American imperialists.

Q--With what intention?

A--In order to destroy the people's regime.

Q--Is there any party (working on behalf of American imperialism)?

A--In reality (this is not) a party but a) group of agents of the imperialist service.

Q--What did you do in the camp?

A--(Unintelligible--Ed.)

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Q--Why did you do such things?

A--Against ... of Athens.

Q--Who did them?

A--The parties against each other.

Q--What was their intention?

A--Their intention was to recruit as many people as possible for their parties. The Balli Kombetar had the largest membership.

Q--(Can you tell us anything about their quarrels)?

A--(Hysein Valeshi and Nishat Morlika were wounded).

Q--Why were they wounded?

A--(Unintelligible--Ed.)

Q--What else?

A--(At that time there were only these two parties). Later, the Agrarian Party and the Independent Bloc were created.

Q--Who were Abbas Ermeni and the others of the Agrarian Party? Do you know them?

A--I beg your pardon?

Q--Did you know them?

A--Yes, I knew them.

Q--Tell us what you know about them.

A--They were criminals of the Albanian people.

Q--What have they done? You call them criminals. What have they done?

A--In Albania?

Q--(Did you know Abbas Ermeni in Albania?)

A--Yes.

Q--What has Abbas Ermeni done?

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A--Abbas Ermeni was the biggest criminal of the Albanian people. He was a member of the Balli Kombetar organization.

Q--What had they done?

A--They had fought against the partisans.

Q--Who had organized these groups?

A--Mithat Frasheri, Hadri Ceka, and Abbaz Ermeni.

Q--Had Abbas Ermeni (collaborated with these people)?

A--Yes.

Q--With whom?

A--With Balli Kombetar.

Q--Was it Mithat Frasheri or ...?

A--They were the leaders. They were rich.

Q--With whom had they collaborated?

A--Who, those ... (Prosecutor interrupts--Ed.)

Q--These people.

A--... they were collaborating with the occupiers.

(Next question and answer unintelligible--Ed.)

Q--How many times?

A--Seven times. (Laughter in the court--Ed.)

Q--When did you first join the service and through whom?

A--I was in the camp at Lavrion. I was put in the service by the Greek general Nikolopoulos through the intervention of the Americans.

Q--Who is this Greek general Nikolopoulos, and how did you connect yourself with him?

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A--My connections with him were developed as follows: First, the general had called Alush Leshanjaku and Haki Rushiti. On his way back, Alush Leshanjaku told me: "I was called and interviewed by the general himself, who told me to place myself in their service. In reply, I told him that if I fail to go to Italy, I am ready to place myself at his disposal, and if I succeed in going to Italy, I have my own service there." It happened that at that time he had just returned from Albania--he had been in Albania.

Later on, Haki Rushiti appeared ... then I was told by Alush Leshanjaku and Haki Rushiti that I was to be called too. They said, "you should not refuse, because we--Muharem Bajraktari, and others--are in it too." After a short time, through the korofilax, I was called by him (the general--Ed.). Then a korofilax accompanied me to the general's office. Entering his office, I noticed an unknown person. (Later, I learned) that he was Dr. (Xhongo). He said: "We will pick up a number of ... and send them to Ibannina. We have, among the others, called you too in order to put you in the service." So, considering the recommendation of Alush and Haki Rushiti, I agreed to participate in this service.

Q--Was there anybody else in the office of Gen. Nikolopoulos?

A--Yes, Dr. (Xhongo) was there too.

Q--Who else was there?

A--Maj. Vangjel Zoto was there as well.

Q--Anybody else?

A--There were others too, but I did not know them.

Q--Where were you acquainted with Alush Leshanjaku?

A--I knew Alush for ... years.

Q--What about Haki Rushiti?

A--I became acquainted with Haki Rushiti in the camp at Lavrion.

Q--What were they doing there?

A--They were in the camp.

Q--Were they living together with you or separately?

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A--They were living together with us, since Haki Rushiti had his (wife), he was living separately

Q--By whom were they supported?

A--They were supported by the Greeks.

Prosecutor--Allow me, Comrade President: Let the accused tell us whether Haki Rushiti, the accused himself, and the others were living together with the other criminals, such as Gani Malushi, Naum Sula, and the others, or separately?

A--We were staying together in the same camp.

Q--In the same camp (Prosecutor mumbles--Ed.).

A--We were in the same camp, but ... (interrupted by the Prosecutor--Ed.).

(Question unintelligible--Ed.)

A--At that time they took me and Sulo Ali, while Haki Rushiti was left free

Q--When did they send you to Ioannina?

A--Arriving there, I stayed a few days in Ioannina, and then I was sent to the camp at (Kocika).

Q--All right, accused. Accused, tell us who was this Gen. Nikolopoulos?

A--This ... (interrupted by President--Ed.).

President--Who was he?

A--He is an agent of the American espionage.

Q--What was his nationality? Was he an American?

A--He was a Greek.

Q--A Greek?

A--Yes, a Greek.

Q--Who was he serving?

A--Imperialism.

Q--When he recruited you, did he recruit you for the American or for the Greek espionage?

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A--He took me and told me: "Today you will talk with me, but after a few days you will speak with others."

Q--With Greeks?

A--Yes, with Greeks.

Q--Tell us, where did you go from there?

A--After we went to Ioannina, we were gathered at the (Kocikas) camp.

Q--Who was at the (Kocikas) camp, and what was he doing?

A--There was a Greek officer of He was in charge of the camp. Later, another officer came, a lieutenant, for our training and instruction.

Q--Did you attend any training there?

A--Yes, we started our instruction, which lasted for 15 days. We were instructed in mines, ... the surrounding of forces, and other things.

Q--Why did you attend these instructions?

A--We attended these instructions in order to put them into execution in Albania after our arrival. We were instructed how to lay mines on roads and in other (places). We attended ~~these~~ instructions at a house, a secret house, near the (Haxhi Nikolla) station.

Q--Where is this (Haxhi Nikolla) station?

A--This station is situated at the end of a quarter of Athens, (On the seaside).

Q--Proceed.

A--There we attended another 5-day training on parachute and on knowledge of the materials we were supposed to have with us. After the training, they sent us to Albania together with Ahmet Kabashi.

Q--Before you left, who directed the course?

A--I beg your pardon?

Q--Before you left, who directed the course?

A--The course was under the direction of the American Col. John.

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Q--Who else from the American espionage was in the course?

A--There was (Maiko).

Q--What did you learn, and who taught it to you?

A--There was also one certain (Niko). He used to train us in parachute jumping.

Q--Who else?

A--In addition, there was a certain person we used to call "Professor." He taught Ahmet radio.

Q--What did they teach you?

A--I beg your pardon?

Q--What kind of lessons did they teach you?

A--They instructed us on map reading, use of weapons, and parachute jumping.

Q--Who attended this course besides you?

A--The course was attended by myself, Ahmet Kabashi, Bequir (Begoja,) Irah, Kabashi, Said Bedeni, Ismail Mahmuti, and Destan Berisha.

Q--Accused, did you attend any other course?

A--I attended the last course (dealing with my departure for Albania).

Q--When did you attend it?

A--About the end of April.

Q--Where? Tell us the place.

A--We ... (interrupted by President--Ed.)

Q--Who attended the course, and who directed it?

A--The last course I attended was located at a house in (Giza) quarter.

Q--Where is this (Giza) quarter?

A--It is ... a quarter of Athens.

Q--To whom did this house belong?

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A--It belonged to a Greek peasant, but the Americans had taken it.

Q--For what purpose did they use it?

A--For the diversionists they were to send to Albania.

Q--Proceed. Tell us what you did there?

A--There we attended training--parachute jumping, use of weapons, marches, and such.

Q--Who directed this training?

A--The march training was directed by an American called (Bido), the parachute jumping by the same American together with the American (Chesti). The latter was in charge of the (bombs we had to use).

Q--What else? Who was responsible for the weapons training?

A--(Bido and Chesti) were instructing us in weapons.

Q--Accused, who was with you at the course?

A--I beg your pardon?

Q--Who was with you there?

A--Gani Malushi and Naum Sula.

Q--Who else?

A--Nobody else.

Q--Nobody else?

A--No.

Voice--Comrade President, who was responsible for this course among the American officers?

A--Col. John was responsible for this course.

President--Were you sent to Albania at any time?

A--Yes.

Q--Who sent you the first time?

A--The first time I was sent by Maj. Magniatis, a Greek, and Maj. (Jani Gjoni), an American.

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Q--When did you arrive in Albania for the first time?

A--In October 1949.

Q--What were your duties?

A--I was charged with creating bases and centers and collecting political, economic, and military information.

Q--What else?

A--Distributing leaflets.

Q--In addition to your tasks, what was the reason for creating centers?

A--We had to create centers for propaganda activities against the people's regime and in order to recruit people in our favor. These centers would have served in case of an uprising in favor of the Americans.

Q--Who were the members of your band when you came to Albania the first time?

A--Myself, Naum Sula, Fetah Gjyka, and Hasan Ahmeti.

Q--Who sent you this time?

A--The Americans together with the Greeks.

Q--What kind of materials did they give to you?

A--Weapons, German rifles, leaflets.

Q--What else?

A--And gold coins.

Q--What were the contents of the leaflets you received from them?

A--I do not know how to explain the contents of these leaflets. These leaflets dealt with anti-Communist nationalist materials. They were supposed to have been sent by an organization which in reality did not exist. I once asked (Nikocetis) and Maj. Magniatis about this organization. They answered, "it is not necessary that you know about it."

(To be continued--Ed.)

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TIRANA SPY TRIAL PROCEEDINGS CONTINUED

(Continued from Page LL 16 of the Apr. 14 DAILY REPORT)

Tirana, Albanian Home Service, Apr. 9, 1954, 2000 GMT--M

(Text)

Q--Who gave you these leaflets?

A--They used to be delivered to us at the time of our departure by Maj. Maniatis, Niko Ceci, and others.

Q--Did you have a seal with you?

A--Yes.

Q--Who gave it to you?

A--The major with Niko Ceci.

Q--What kind of a seal was it and what was it used for?

A--This seal carried the name of the organization.

Q--How did you carry out your tasks?

A--We did not implement them according to their instructions.

W--What?

A--We did not implement them according to their instructions, because we did not find elements to follow us. At times it happened that we contacted one or two people, and on other occasions we used to return without accomplishing any work at all. Then, on crossing the border, we used to draft notes according to our own opinion, and pass them over to them.

Q--Tell us what you did in Albania at this period.

A--This time we went to Grabove Village, where we got in touch with Tahir Demollari ..., and he accepted. Leaving this place, we got in touch with Rakip Zogu, Ibrahim Zeneli, and Mustafa (Mani).

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Q--Who else?

A--We also got in touch with (Veliam) Boja. At this place we met Demo Topalli, who had escaped from home and was in the mountains in Albania. After spending a few days there, we returned to Greece.

Q--On what date did you return to Greece?

A--I believe that our return to Greece took place that month.

Q--Were you questioned?

A--Yes.

Q--By whom and about what were you questioned?

A--I was questioned by Niko Ceci in the presence of a Greek officer and the secretaries who used to stay at Maj. Maniatis' office.

Q--Tell us, who took charge of you before you were handed over to Niko Ceci?

A--First, we were taken over by the Greek Army. Upon our arrival at the Greek Army we used to give immediately the number of the office.

Q--What number?

A--The number of Monada (unit--Ed.) 1501. Giving them this number, they immediately used to notify Ioannina, and a truck was thereby sent to drive us to Ioannina. Arriving there, my accomplices were sent to the camp, while I was kept there for questioning.

Q--To whom were you told to give this number? Were you supposed to give it to anybody you met on your way, or only to the Army?

A--This number was to be given only to the Army. These Army units included officers of the major's office.

Q--About what were you questioned?

A--We were questioned about what we had done.

Q--To whom did you pass this information?

A--... to Dhimo Duka.

Q--Was the information only verbal, or was it written?

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A--It was written information. I used to dictate and they would write it down.

Q--Did you pass on any true information?

A--No true information.

Q--Why did you not give them true information?

A--Because we could not get any true information.

Q--But why did they accept such false information?

A--They had to accept it because our information was to be passed to the American named John. Once I was told the following by Maj. Maniatis: "You tell us one, but we raise it to 100."

Q--Did you add anything to this?

A--Yes, most of it was exaggerated.

Q--Why did you exaggerate it?

A--I had to exaggerate because they wanted me to do the job, and we could not accomplish it.

Q--Why did you fail to accomplish the task you were entrusted with?

A--Because I never thought of accomplishing the tasks according to what I was told.

Q--At what time were you sent back into Albania?

A--I was next smuggled into Albania in May 1950.

Q--By whom were you sent?

A--I was sent by the same men.

Q--What were your tasks?

A--The same tasks.

Q--Who else was with you?

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A--This time the following were with me: Naum Sula, Fetah Gjika, Lek Martini, Muhamet Qamo, Zenel (Bolenen), Ilmi Ibrahim, and Demo Topalli. The latter returned because of illness. We were organized into two groups. I was sent to Berat Department, while the other group was to operate in Gramsh District. I was delegated to seek out Selman Bobrati. However, we could not do a thing because we were short of food. We came to Tomorrice, where we clashed with the police. They fired at us and we left the place. We reached Grabove Village. There Muhamet Qamo left. So we were obliged to return to Greece without accomplishing anything at all. We crossed the border and went to (Dhovjan) Village, and from there we sent a message to Ioannina. The next day they came and we headed for Ioannina. A few days after my arrival in Ioannina, I was called by Maniatis. There I was told by Jani Khani that an order had arrived from Athens saying that I should go back to Albania. So I got Naum Sula, Fetah Gjika, and Musa Hajdari from Mallakster and crossed the border. We arrived at Gramsh District. There we got in touch with Rakip (Zogu), Ibrahim Lamce, and ... (interrupted by the President--Ed.)

Q--Continue. What else did you do?

A--While returning to Ibrahim Lamce's (place), we were informed that Kasem Hoxha had escaped. So we talked with (Ibrahim Lamce), telling him to notify Kasem Hoxha that on our return in 4 or 5 days we would take him with us. Returning there, we asked him to go and bring Kasem. After his arrival, we left for Greece.

Q--Whom did you contact there?

A--We contacted the Greek Army.

Q--What did they do then?

A--They sent a message to Ioannina. Then men from Ioannina came to get us.

Q--Who came to get you?

A--A captain. No, a Lt. (Kollomoqu) with a soldier.

Q--Where did (you) go then?

A--We went to Ioannina.

Q--Were you questioned there?

A--Yes.

Q--By whom and about what were you questioned?

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A--We were questioned by the interpreter Dhimo Duka and a secretary of of Maniatis' office.

Q--At what time were you sent back to Albania?

A--I was sent into Albania in June 1951.

Q--From what place were you sent?

A--I had then left Ioannina, and was kept in prison in Athens for a period of 3 months. Then I was sent to Syros Island.

Q--Where did you go next?

A--From there I was accompsnied by a korofilax who took me down to Nikolopoulos' office.

Q--Why did you go there?

A--I had no idea why I was sent there.

While staying in that office Hasim Jakova, together with a Greek major named Diamandis, appeared. The latter seemed to be Gen. Nikolopoulos' liaison man, who was conducting talks between the general and the Americans and English. He was an interpreter. Then Hasim Jakova and the major came to see me. When the major left, Hasim Jakova told me: "We need to accomplish a task, and have thought it ... that you should help us by accompanying a group as far as Dumbre District, Elbasan. I said I would accompany the group, adding that I wanted to know who these men were. He told me their names, asking if I knew Ahmet Kabashi and Beir Bejgora? I told him that I knew them.

Q--What kind of a job did Hasim Jakova have?

A--I beg your pardon?

Q--What kind of job did he have?

A--He was collaborating with the Americans. He was an American officer, of American citizenship.

Q--Was he in uniform?

A--No, he was wearing civilian clothes.

Q--How did you know that he was an officer?

A--I had heard that he was a lieutenant colonel.

Q--When did you depart?

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A--We left in June ... our departure took place at about 11 or 12 o'clock. We arrived at the dropping place at 2 o'clock in the morning.

Q--Where were you dropped?

A--We were dropped at a place called (Shtika) near Lushnje.

Q--At what time?

A--We were parachuted at about 0130 or 0200.

Q--What did you do next?

A--The airplane did not parachute us in the proper place, so we were dispersed. We could not find one another. Then I met Ahmet Kabashi, Ibrahim Kabashi, and Seit Zeneli. We could not see the other five at all.

Q--Where did you go next?

A--Later, the four of us went to a forest where we spent the whole day. In the evening we went back to the (dropping) place, hoping to find our associates and to collect the material. The material was so abundant that even a truck could not carry it all.

Q--(What kind of material was it?)

A--I hardly know what they had packed in there, but it contained food, ammunition, and plenty of grenades.

Q--What did you want all this material for?

A--This material was given to us in order to fight in the event of a clash with Government forces.

Q--Could you carry all that material on your backs?

A--It was impossible to carry all the material. While loading the material into the plane, one of our associates told Hasim Jakova that it was impossible to carry all the material. Then Hasim Jakova reported the case to (Michael), the American. In reply, (Michael) told Hasim Jakova to let them take all the material. Concerning transportation, he said to let them hire a cart, load the material in it, and forward it to the place where it was needed. (Laughter--Ed.)

Q--Where were you supposed to go with the cart?

A--Beg your pardon?

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Q--Where were you supposed to go with that cart?

A--I do not know what to say. I was surprised at his suggestion too.

Q--Fair enough with the others, but did you say anything?

A--Beg your pardon?

Q--Did you say anything when he suggested hiring a cart?

A--What could I say?

Q--You knew the situation because you had already entered Albania several times. Had you been able to travel by cart from any place?

A--I knew the situation and I was well aware

Q--What did you do next?

A--We spent a few days in that forest, and then left the place with the aim of finding our associates. We went to Najije where we saw a civilian and a policeman. Because of them we changed our direction to the left. The policemen shouted at us: "Who are you, who are you?" In reply we said that we were members of a patrol. So we left the place and headed for Greece.

Q--Who were your accomplices when you left for (Greece)?

A--My accomplices were Ahmet Kabashi, Ibrahim Kabashi, and Seit Zeneli.

Q--Where did you go then?

A--Then I headed for Greece because we could not get in touch with our accomplices. We decided to go back so as to be informed as to what happened to our friends. We could not get news of them because our communications means were partly in the hands of the other (group). So all went to Greece together.

Q--What do you mean all together? Did you not leave anybody there?

A--Yes, three men were left behind. They were Bequir Bejgora, Ishamil, Mahmuti, and Destan Berisha,

A--Why did you leave them?

A--Because we could not find them. We had no idea where they had landed.

Q--Proceed, where did you go then?

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A--We headed for Dumbre District, Elbasan, and from there to Gramsh District. There I went to a base to get some food. From there we headed for Greece. On the way we had no food. So we were obliged to steal, and so forth.

Q--Whom did you approach in crossing the border?

A--We went to (Kishtave) Village.

Q--Tell us, who took charge of you there?

A--We were received by the Greek Army. The Army sent a message to Ioannina. Then people from Ioannina came to get us. We spent one night there. The next day an American plane came to get us there.

Q--When were you next smuggled into Albania?

A--I was smuggled in August 19 ... (sentence not completed--Ed.)

Q--From where and by whom were you sent?

A--I was sent by the American intelligence.

Q--Who?

A--The American intelligence.

Q--From what place?

A--I was sent by air from Athens Airfield to Kastoria.

Q--Who was with you?

A--The following were with me: Fetah Gjika, Lek Martini, Bido Kotori, Zenel (Bolena), and Naum Sula.

Q--Who was the leader of this band?

A--I was the leader of the group.

Q--Who was responsible?

A--Concerning the accomplishment of the tasks, this time they were entrusted to Lek Martini.

Q--What was your group supposed to do?

A--We were supposed to collect information and establish bases.

Prosecutor--Allow me, Comrade President:

Q--Accused Hamit Matjani, what was the purpose of these bases?

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A--We intended to kill, to slaughter, and to burn.

President--Who gave these instructions?

A--Beg your pardon?

Q--By whom were you instructed to do so?

A--These instructions were given to us by Jakova; Michael, the American; the American colonel named John; Charles, and others.

Q--What kind of instructions did they give you?

A--To enter Albania, set up bases, collect information, to kill, to slaughter, and everything.

Q--When did you enter the territory of the People's Republic of Albania, and by what kind of means?

A--I came by land.

Q--When? At what time?

A--I entered Albania on Aug. 5.

Q--Where did you go then?

A--I passed through Bilisht District, Korce Department, Maliq, and finally arrived at Grabove.

Q--What did you do then?

A--I arrived at Grabove Village.

Q--What did you do next?

A--I did not do anything. We had agreed that our radio operator be parachuted there. We arrived at this place 4 days ahead of schedule. One night an aircraft arrived. We had in advance agreed to signal to the aircraft with our torches, but since the torches were defective we could not give any signals. So the aircraft left without dropping us anything. So we were left short of food. Because of this ... while passing through we met the Tefik Kokla group. They were short of food too. So we decided to send for food at Dushku Tekke.

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We sent Fetah Gjika, Lek Martini, and Bido Kotori. Arriving there, they found two people who were State employees. Abas Pisha, the servant of the tekke, was Then they had handcuffed them and brought them to us. Thereafter we could not decide what to do with them. Some were of a mind to set them free, whereas others insisted on shooting them. So we decided to shoot them, and we shot them.

Q--Who shot them?

A--All of us.

Q--I say, who shot them?

A-- ... myself, Lek Martini, and others fired at them.

Q--Did you take any documents from them?

A--Yes, Lek Martini took their identification papers, ..., and a list relating to grain collection. I saw these documents the next day. Lek Martini read the documents the next day. After reading them, he tore up some documents and kept the rest. On our return to Athens, Lek Martini handed these documents over to Michael, the American.

Prosecutor--Allow me, Comrade President. (Addresses the accused--Ed.) And, naturally, Michael thanked you for what you did.

A--Naturally, that was what concerned him.

Q--Was it? Comrade Judges, I have a telegram here from Thoma Prifti's family, from the family of Thoma Prifti who was murdered by the hand of Hamit Matjani, by the hand of bandit Hamit Matjani. Comrade Judges, the family of Thoma Prifti demands from you that the criminal Hamit Matjani receive capital punishment, and that his punishment be executed at the place where the event took place. Comrade Judges, do note this professional criminal, do note this dreadful act committed by this sworn enemy of our people, a degenerated person who (sold his services to) the Anglo-American imperialists. ... with the blood of our people ...

President--Where did you hand over the documents?

A--We handed them over to Athens.

Q--To whom did you hand them?

A--To Michael, the American.

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Q--What did he say?

A--He said nothing else, except he questioned me about the (murder) case, the problem of the groups, and

Q--What did he say about the murder case?

A--He asked us who they were. We said they were State employees.

Q--What else?

A--Nothing else. He took the documents

Q--What else did you report to him?

A--~~Nothing~~ else, except about our trip.

Q--Where did you go next?

A--After we had spent a few days there, they sent my accomplices to Syros.

Q--Where were you sent?

A--Lek Martinis and myself were kept in Athens.

Q--Where in Athens?

A--I was provided lodging in a hotel called (Diethnos).

Q--Why did they lodge you there?

A--I was kept there because I was to undergo an operation on my hand.

Q--What was wrong with your hand?

A--I was wounded.

Q--When were you wounded?

A--I was wounded before entering Greece.

Q--Where, at what place were you wounded?

A--Here in Albania.

Q--Against whom (were you fighting)?

A--Against the People's Army.

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Q--What kind of propaganda was carried out in Greece against our country?

A--Through their press and radio, they said that Munarem Bajraktari was fighting in Mat, Kukes, and so forth. Likewise, they used to say that a Vesel Idrizi had ... out off the Librazhd-Diber Road. But such a man did not exist. We asked people from Librazhd about this man and they had never heard of him. Radio Free Albania was saying that it was in the mountains of Albania. In reality that radio is in Italy, Greece, or elsewhere. All sorts of slanderous propaganda is being carried out every day.

About 10 days or 2 weeks before my departure ... Greek newspapers wrote that Hamit Matjani with a force of 4,000 men was fighting in Mat, Diber, and Kukes, while I was in a coffeehouse in Athens. (Laughter--Ed.) One day while I was sitting in a confectionery shop situated along the Athinon road, a newspaper vendor was shouting in Albanian. The owner of the confectionery spoke Albanian. So he went out and bought a newspaper. While reading it, he found my name in it and said: "You are here, what are they talking about?" I laughed too. (Laughter in the court--Ed.) Then the owner of the confectionery went out again and brought the newspaper vendor in, telling him to read the newspapers. After he had read it, the confectioner asked him: "What does it say?"

In reply, the newspaper vendor said that Hamit Matjani, with a force of 4,000, was fighting in Mat, Kukes, and Diber. Then the confectioner said: "What are you talking about? Here is Hamit Matjani. So that is how you are deceiving us? Please get this newspaper and go to your editor and tell him that Hamit Matjani is in my confectionery. And that is what is going there. Once they say Muharem Bajraktari, another time Bilal Kola, and so forth. This is a matter of routine."

Q--Who was doing all this?

A--The Greeks, together with the Americans. The newspaper which was shown to me bore the photos of Enver Hoxha and of Zog.

Q--Have you ever talked with Muharem Bajraktari about this propaganda?

A--Yes, once I read in a newspaper that Muharem Bajraktari was fighting. I knew that he was in the camp in Lavrion and I was in Athens. The next day Muhare, Bajraktari came to Athens. When I met and told him, "so quickly you returned from the fighting, Mr. Bajraktari," he replied: "Such is their propaganda."

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Prosecutor--What kind of news does this propaganda reveal? The examples brought by the accused Hamit Matjani does not include anything new. These methods and their substance are similar to the body of Greek propaganda, as well as that of the Voice of America, Free Europe, and Free Albania radios. Through their broadcasts they are trying to poison the people of the world.

Comrade Judges, (similar) propaganda has also been carried out by the accused. A part of this propaganda against our country is being carried out everyday and each hour, a propaganda carried out through radio broadcasts, pamphlets, and newspapers. The case of Hamit Matjani and Muharem Bajraktari is not of an occasional character. At a time when they were eating meatballs in Athens hotels, the newspapers were saying they were fighting in the mountains of Albania.

Our people are well aware that there is no room in our mountains for criminals such as Hamit Matjani, Muharem Bajraktari, and others. Our mountains belong to our people, and no one can touch

There cannot be such movement in Albania, because the people are united around the Party, because the people are united around the Government, and there is no one to support Muharem Bajraktari and Hamit Matjani. This is well known by the American imperialists.

President--When did you come to Albania the other time?

A--The other time I came to Albania was in May 1952.

Q--Why did you come?

A--I came to accompany Zenel Shehu to Martanesh.

Q--Who put you in contact with the Zenel Shehu group?

A--The Americans put me in contact with the Zenel Shehu group.

Q--Which Americans?

A--Col. John and the American Charlie.

Q--Who contacted you from the Zenel Shehu group?

A--I was told by Irfan Ohri that a group would come from Egypt.

Q--Who is this Irfan Ohri?

A--A war criminal. Irfan Ohri is a war criminal.

Q--Where had he been?

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A--I beg your pardon?

Q--Where had Irfan Ohri been before?

A--I do not know where he had been before. I only met him then.

Q--When did you meet him, and where did you meet him?

Q--I met him about 1943.

Q--Where did you meet him?

A--I met him at (Reth Kavafe).

Q--What was he doing at (Reth Kavafe)?

A--He was then an agent of Fascism. ... of the national liberation movement.

Q--When did Irfan Ohri come there, and why did he come?

A--To Greece?

Q--To Greece.

A--He came with the intention of finding people to lead groups to Albania. When he came to know me, he told me that he had been to Turkey to get Aziz Bicaku.

Q--Yes?

A--Aziz Bicaku did not come, so he called upon me. He told me that Zog, after his return from the United States, had undertaken the task of liberating Albania. Thus, he wanted to send some of his elements to Albania to investigate the situation and remain there some time. He told me that I must accompany them to Martanesh. I told him that I did not know the way to Martanesh. He told me: "You may lead them to Quksi, and from there Haxhi Gjyla will be able to lead you."

Q--Who is this Haxhi Gjyla?

Q--I beg your pardon?

Q--Who is that Haxhi Gjyla?

A--Haxhi is a war criminal who left Albania with Irfan Ohri, together with his family and the Germans.

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Q--Proceed.

A--I told him that I was with the Americans, and that I could not promise him to go with them.

Q--Accused, what did you tell him?

A--That i was with the Americans.

Q--What does that mean?

A--That I was with the Americans; that they were keeping me. If the Americans want, they can take anybody. He told me; "We shall arrange everything with the Americans. The Americans who are here are under the orders of higher authorities." Then I told him; "If the Americans allow me to go, I will go."

As he was going, ... he would go on a long trip to France in order to mask the trip. He gave me the password, "The princesses left for France." I had to interpret it as meaning, "The group is coming to Greece." Some time later, he wrote to me, "The princesses left for Paris." I knew then that the group had left for Greece. One day when I was in the hotel, the American Charles came and told me to collect my things because I had to leave. We went by car to a house where we found Hysein Selmani, Zenel Shehu, Halil Branica, and Haxhi Gjyla.

Q--Who else was there?

A--There was nobody else. They were the only ones.

Q--Accused, who else came with you?

A--Xheladin Tresova came later. As I did not know the way to their destination, I told Hysein Selmani that I was not able to lead them in that direction. Then we decided to take Xheladin Tresova as our guide. Afterward, we told the Americans that we had taken Xheladin Tresova for our guide.

Q--Did you talk with Hysein Selmani?

A--We did talk with him, but he was very reserved.

Q--What did you discuss with him? What did he tell you?

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A--He used to talk about the 1924 (Revolution) when Zog entered Albania from Yugoslavia. He used to describe the situation in that period. One day when we were alone I told him: "The situation in Albania is not what you think. The present situation in Albania is different. During my years in exile, I have been to Albania and have not found the situation as you describe it. I was in Albania for one month, but only going and coming, and I was not able to talk with people. I was not able to do anything." He told me, "The people of that zone are different from those in the other one." I told him, "I do not know about the people of that zone. The only thing I know is that to go there is very dangerous." He told me, "You will go and you will see that I am right. You do not have to disturb yourself. Everywhere, you will find support and food, and the people will facilitate your task. When you go there you do not have to do anything, because the people will work for you."

Q--(Did you talk with your friends about this?)

A--Yes, among the members of the group.

Q--What did they tell you?

A--Yes.

Q--What did they tell you, and why did the group have to come here?

A--The group had the mission of recruiting as many people as possible to study the situation, and to carry out propaganda among the dissatisfied elements. When the time came, the group was to start a revolution against the people's regime.

Q--Accused, who told you these things?

A--Hysein Selmani and others. This was the mission of the group.

Q--Did the American espionage officers go there?

A--Yes.

Q--Who came, and what did you discuss with them?

A--Col. John, Charley, Maiko, Jim, and another John.

Q--Where did they meet you?

A--At the (Naxhi Nikolla) house.

Q--(What did they teach you?)

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A--They taught us about maps, compasses, weapons, and about some kind of paper (on which we used to write with blood.) For example, on some of them we would write with pencil, on some other with (blood), and it was not possible to read them. When the letters were handed over to them, they used to read them by heat.

Q--What other lessons did they teach you?

A--The Americans?

Q--Yes. Who was the group leader?

A--Zenel Shehu was the group leader.

Q--Who directed the lessons?

A--The Americans.

Q--What were the other lessons they taught you?

A--Map reading, in addition to the others. The colonel was present at our lessons. Zenel Shehu asked him, "If our work goes well, can you send us materials?" He told him, "As much as you want. How many millions are in Albania?" Zenel told him, "Albania has 1.2 million people." He told Zenel, "I can send you as much material as you want--for example, weapons, ammunition, machine guns, and so forth--but not field guns."

Q--During the training period at the course did they teach you anything about weapons?

A--Of course we did weapons training.

Q--All right then, tell us about it.

A--We trained ourselves in rifles and pistol firing.

Q--Where did you go for this training? Who directed it?

A--We were trained near our quarter.

Q--Which quarter?

A--Our quarter was near the (Haxhi Nikolla) Station.

Q--In which town?

A--In Athens. I cannot locate our training area in Piraeus, because I do not know the name of the quarter.

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Q--How long did you remain ...?

A--About 10 or 15 days.

Q--Who was the leader of your group?

A--Zenel Shehu.

Q--Accused, when did you leave that place?

A--We left on Apr. 29.

Q--When?

A--On Apr. 29 we left Athens.

Q--Accused, did they tell you anything about the importance of this group?

A--Yes.

Q--Tell us what they told you.

A--They told us that this group must work secretly, because the group was very important, and that it was not like the other groups.

Q--(Who told you this? Someone from the base?)

A--They took us from this base, and sent us to Athens Airport. They put us in a plane for (Kosturi).

Q--What kind of plane?

A--A two-engine American military plane.

Q--Where did you go?

A--We landed at (Kosturi) Airport. There we met a Greek officer, a lieutenant, and some soldiers. After we left the plane they took us by car outside (Kosturi) to a house.

Q--Who was with you in the plane?

A--The American Charles, and (Gaqp Gazi).

Q--How far did they accompany you?

A--To (Kosturi).

Q--Where did they go from there?

A--At (Kosturi) we were taken in charge by the Greeks.

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Q--What happened to the soldiers?

A--The soldiers returned to the plane.

Q--Did they tell you anything when you departed?

A--They told us that from there we were in the charge of the Greeks, and that we were to address the Greeks for anything we wanted.

Q--Where did you go?

A--After we went to that house--we stayed there one night--the next day we (tested our weapons). Then they put us in a car for ... Vangjel Muka, Lazar Goriza, and some soldiers.

Q--When did you cross the border?

A--We crossed the border on May 2.

Q--Accused, who was with you?

A--With us were Zenel Shehu, Halil Branica--Halil Branica returned--Naxhi Gjyla, Tahir Toci, Xheladin Tresova, Seit Lleshi, and Xhemal (Araza).

Q--Who was the group leader?

A--Zenel Shehu was the group leader.

Q--Accused, why did you go with them?

A--I went to guide them to Martanesh.

Q--Tell us, where did you go?

A--After we crossed the border we went toward the Korce plain.

Q--Accused, before you crossed the border what was the mission of the Greek soldiers and why did they accompany you?

A--Their mission was to accompany us to the border, to see that we crossed the border, and to protect us while we were crossing it. They used to take positions on the border with their weapons and machine guns.

Q--Accused, each time you crossed the border were you accompanied by Greek soldiers?

A--Yes, always.

Q--By Greek officers and soldiers?

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A--Yes. Only once they stopped before the border and we crossed the border alone. I was then with Safat Malushi and Gani Malushi.

Q--Why did the Greek soldiers take positions on the border?

A--In order to protect the group which was crossing the Albanian border and to fire on Albanian guards.

Q--Accused, where did you go after you crossed the border?

A--After we crossed the border we continued during the whole night and we reached Kamenice Village of Korce by daylight.

Q--Where did you go from there?

A--From there we headed for Tresove. In Tresove we stopped at a base of Xheladin Tresova at Kuco Maconi.

Q--Whom did you meet there?

A--There we met Kuce and Kuce's son, Seit.

Q--How long did you stay there, and what did you talk about?

A--We stayed there that night and the next day. During the night we left, guided by Seit, for the Lenias mountain.

Q--Did you talk with the other accused Raush Agolli?

A--We talked about the situation.

Q--What did you talk about?

A--About the people's situation.

Q--What did the accused Rapush Agolli tell you?

A--We discussed what to say to the people, the dissatisfied elements.

Q--Did he tell you anything?

A--I beg your pardon?

Q--Did he tell you anything about himself?

A--Yes.

Q--What did he tell you?

A--He told me that he was dissatisfied.

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Q--Who guided you to the accused Rapush Agolli?

A--Xheladin Tresova.

Q--How did Xheladin Tresova know Rapush Agolli?

A--He knew him because they had been friends.

Q--Had Xheladin Tresova told you about their friendship?

A--Yes.

Q--When did he tell you about it?

A--I had been with Xheladin before, in 1949, when I entered the first time. That time Rapush Agolli was not there. He was in prison. His sons were not there either at that time, but we met his cousin Keit Agolli. Seit Agolli guided us to ..., and when we came back we stayed with Xheladin at his house.

Q--Where did you go from there?

A--After we reached the Leniaj mountain, we ran short of supplies. Then we contacted Athens by radio and asked for supplies. They supplied us by plane. After we had received our supplies, we left for our destination--Martanesh.

Q--Who guided you to Leniaj?

A--Sadik Rapushi guided us to Leniaj.

Q--Who was this Sadik Rapushi?

A--Sadik Rapushi was the son of Rapush.

Q--Where did you go from there?

A--From there we headed in the direction of Moka, Qufe, (Restariq), and From there we could see Librazhd and reached the (Koriqi) mountain, and from there we went toward Martanesh.

Q--What did you do there? Did you meet anybody?

A--Hysein Selmani and the others had told us before we left that when we went to Martanesh we were to see Xhafte Molla, (Bajram Boziqi), and (Sulejman Manija), who were hiding in the mountains. Through their aid, we were to establish bases in the district and to carry out our activities.

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Our first base was Martanesh, and from there we were to spread our activities all around the country. When we arrived in Martanesh to stay, Haxhi Gjyla went to his house, together with Tahir Toci. He was not received well at his house, and since he could not stay in his house, Haxhi Gjylu decided to return to Greece. Zenel, too, had to go to Diber to establish bases for his activities. During the trip I told Zenel: "The situation is dangerous and it is difficult to carry out our activities in Albania. We cannot end the month there."

Q--Accused, who sent them?

A--Zog, through the mediation of the Americans.

Prosecutor--Accused, did the accused Zenel Shehu propose anything to you in connection with sending information to the American intelligence service? Did he ask you to convey any information? Did he ask you to stay with him for a certain period?

A--We decided that I would stay one or 2 months with them. Later on we would send two or three people to Greece, and I was supposed to take them to Greece. The brother of Bilal Kola--an educated person--and (Dita Hilmet) were supposed to come with me to Greece. After their return to Greece, these persons were to go to meet Zog, through the mediation of the Americans.

President--Accused, why did they want these people?

A--They wanted them so as to be informed about Albania, and to train them. When the time came for an uprising, they intended to send them to Albania with other instructions.

Q--What was the group's intention, the group headed by Zenel Shehu and guided by you?

A--The group was entrusted with the mission of recruiting as many people as possible for an armed uprising in Albania against the people's regime.

Q--Accused, where did you learn this?

A--I learned this when we were talking with the Americans.

Prosecutor--Allow me, Comrade President. The accused Hamit Matjani said that they were preparing for an uprising. The revolution took place in Albania. It did take place, indeed. (Accused interrupts--Ed.)

A--Yes. *"Very well"*

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Prosecutor--The revolution took place, and the people's regime was established. There is no room for another revolution here. (Accused interrupts--Ed.)

A--Yes.

Prosecutor--Here, only a few people--reactionaries and war criminals--can be recruited. Some reactionaries and war criminals from abroad can be infiltrated through the border, in order to recruit some remnants of our people, by running up and down in our country. They tried indeed, to organize an armed uprising against the people's regime. They have carried out these activities under the initiative of American imperialism, but they could not do anything, and nobody will be able to do a similar thing. This is only a dream in the minds of the American imperialists. Such things take place only in their imaginations. There is no room in our Albania for an armed uprising. Accused, an armed uprising can never take place in our country. ... they were predisposed toward and attempted to do such a thing. They could not carry out their mission, because of the power of our people, because of our Army, and because of our people's security forces. (Applause--Ed.)

President--The fifth session is closed.